

TORAH THOUGHTS – SEDER MEANS ORDER

The Torah teaches that when God created the world, God established order out of chaos. Indeed, this is the Jewish way – to provide the structures essential for living a good life.

The *seder* is an organized, fifteen step process, depicting the journey from slavery to freedom. The Hebrew word *seder* means order; when we gather this Friday and Saturday nights, let's consider not only the holiday rituals but also how we can bring more order to our lives.

Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe used a metaphor to describe the importance of order.

Picture a pearl necklace with a small clasp. Which is more essential – the clasp or the pearls? At first glance the pearls are more essential. But, without the clasp all the pearls would scatter and all that would be left is the chain – thus the clasp seems more essential. A person is like a collection of pearls – full of potential, talents, character traits and virtues. Seder is like the clasp on the necklace. Without Seder all one's virtues and talents scatter and one is left empty.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. Which is more important – the clasp or the pearls?
2. What does Rabbi Wolbe mean when he says that “Without Seder all one's virtues and talents scatter and one is left empty”? How does this apply to your own life? What is the clasp in your life that keeps your pearls (talents) from scattering?
3. This week, the students of our Confirmation class (10th graders) engaged in a lively debate over this text. In teaching them and the 7th graders, I use the Chai Mitzvah curriculum. To learn more, go to www.chaimitzvah.org.
4. Don't forget to sell your *chametz* through me, so you don't officially own it during Passover! Call the office for more information and see the weekly MJC News email.

Have a zissen (sweet) Pesach!!

Shalom,

Rabbi Pont